

WATCH ON THE RHINE

Klein's Tale of Friendship

By MARY McGRORY
Star Staff Writer

Julius Klein is a small man, and demanding.

He smokes fine cigars. Senators on the Ethics Committee were bathed in authoritative fumes all day long.

He keeps a \$700 a month suite at a New York hotel because, he explained, it is cheaper than hiring a \$40 a day room.

He makes frequent trips to Europe, one assumes in first class. Deplaned since the war, he travels to his home-base in Chicago by train. One pictures the best compartment.

He knows many important people. A brief personal statement of 57 pages, testily rejected for the record by Chairman John Stennis, named legions of them. His testimony yesterday was studded with the names of Capitol Hill luminaries.

He runs his public relations firm with Teutonic efficiency. He can provide briefing papers, speeches, letters, drafts, lists and resolutions before a senator even knows he wants them.

Only his taste in senators seem erratic. Why, with great names on Capitol Hill ready to leap at his word, did he fasten upon Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., as his personal watch on the Rhine?

The record he unfolded in his accented answers—he referred to "our Shtate Department" and spoke admiringly of the "witality" of former Chancellor Konrad Adenauer—was replete with Germanic competence confounded by senatorial ineptitude.

Dodd, entrusted with the



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JULIUS KLEIN

high mission of clearing Klein's good name with his West German clients in Bonn—Shakespeare, whom he identified only as "an Englishman," to suggest the professional catastrophe—simply did not come through in the style to which Klein is accustomed.

Klein, for instance, drew up a sheaf of briefing papers for the senator's errand of mercy. He included biographical sketches of the movers and shakers in Germany who needed to have the "distortions" of Sen. J. William Fulbright's 1963 hearings corrected.

What did Dodd do?

He left the papers behind.

Klein gave the senator the name of a businessman with whom, Klein said, he thought it would be helpful to "discuss the reunification of Germany, the test-ban treaty and the Israeli restitutions."

Dodd did not even go and see the man.

Modest Request

Klein once made a modest request of his old friend that he get him appointed to the Battle Monuments Commission. What happened? Dodd didn't even let him know how the matter was progressing.

He did not so much as

attend the Fulbright hearings where Klein, a Jew, was being besmirched as "a Nazi-lover," Klein said wistfully, "I was disappointed that Sen. Dodd, being a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, did not attend the hearings."

Klein cooled his heels almost all winter in Germany waiting for his advocate to show up. Dodd kept pleading Senate business. Klein was reproachful, according to a letter introduced in evidence.

"Had I known," he wrote, "I would have asked Sen. Humphrey or Sen. Symington to make a quick trip to speak to my friends."

At length, Dodd pulled himself together, and armed with a list furnished, Klein said by "our Shtate Department," made his rounds. Klein said, that on his return, that he "took it for granted" that the senator had put in a good word for him.

"He said the Fulbright matter was better understood," Klein reported his sluggish agent as saying. "It was sufficient for me then and it is sufficient for me now."

Another Capitol Hill friend—Klein's ability to involve other people in his problems is obviously the key to his success—Sen. Jacob K. Javits, R-N.Y., functioned in a manner far more congenial to the competent Klein. He required no laborious briefing, Klein said approvingly. "Sen. Javits took a personal interest—he was thoroughly familiar."

Sticks With Friend

But Klein stayed with the fumbling old friend, even when it appeared that Dodd did not even understand the ghost-writer's code. Klein prepared him a letter for a German official in praise of Klein and wrote at the bottom, "Please destroy this letter." Naturally, Dodd forgot, and the letter was introduced.

Forbearing as he was, Klein sometimes had to reprove his old friend.

In one letter, he wrote, "Don't forget, Tom, friendship is a two-way street."

Tom's side of the street had been thoroughly explored. But nobody could get to the other side, which was what Klein did for Dodd.

"I see nothing wrong in asking a senator to do something," said Klein, a single minded man.